

# House Bill 2610

Sponsored by Representative BREESE-IVERSON; Representatives NEARMAN, RESCHKE, SMITH DB (Presession filed.)

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Provides that State Fish and Wildlife Commission may waive requirement that artificial obstruction in waters of this state provide for fish passage if commission determines that artificial obstruction will be repaired or replaced and is less than eight feet tall, or that artificial obstruction is dam that provides hydropower, drinking water or water for irrigation use, artificial obstruction provides fish habitat and providing for fish passage would increase cost of project by more than 10 percent.

Removes requirement that commission periodically review exemptions from fish passage requirement. Removes commission authority to revoke or amend exemption upon finding that relevant requirements for exemption no longer apply.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to fish passage; amending ORS 509.585.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1.** ORS 509.585 is amended to read:

5 509.585. (1) It is the policy of the State of Oregon to provide for upstream and downstream  
6 passage for native migratory fish and the Legislative Assembly finds that cooperation and collab-  
7 oration between public and private entities is necessary to accomplish the policy goal of providing  
8 passage for native migratory fish and to achieve the enhancement and restoration of Oregon's native  
9 salmonid populations, as envisioned by the Oregon Plan. Therefore, except as provided in ORS  
10 chapter 509, fish passage is required in all waters of this state in which native migratory fish are  
11 currently or have historically been present.

12 (2) Except as otherwise provided by this section or ORS 509.645, a person owning or operating  
13 an artificial obstruction may not construct or maintain any artificial obstruction across any waters  
14 of this state that are inhabited, or historically inhabited, by native migratory fish without providing  
15 passage for native migratory fish.

16 (3) The State Department of Fish and Wildlife shall complete and maintain a statewide inventory  
17 of artificial obstructions in order to prioritize enforcement actions based on the needs of native  
18 migratory fish. This prioritization shall include, but need not be limited to, the degree of impact of  
19 the artificial obstruction on the native migratory fish, the biological status of the native migratory  
20 fish stocks in question and any other factor established by the department by rule. The department  
21 shall establish a list of priority projects for enforcement purposes. Priority artificial obstructions  
22 are subject to the State Fish and Wildlife Commission's authority as provided in ORS 509.625. Unless  
23 requested by persons owning or operating an artificial obstruction, the department shall primarily  
24 direct its enforcement authority toward priority projects, emergencies and projects described in  
25 subsection (4) of this section. The priority project list shall be subject to periodic review and  
26 amendment by the department and to formal review and amendment by the commission no less fre-  
27 quently than once every five years.

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (4) A person owning or operating an artificial obstruction shall, prior to construction, funda-  
 2 mental change in permit status or abandonment of the artificial obstruction in any waters of this  
 3 state, obtain a determination from the department as to whether native migratory fish are or his-  
 4 torically have been present in the waters. If the department determines that native migratory fish  
 5 are or historically have been present in the waters, the person owning or operating the artificial  
 6 obstruction shall either submit a proposal for fish passage to the department or apply for a waiver  
 7 pursuant to subsection (7) of this section. Approval of the proposed fish passage facility or of the  
 8 alternatives to fish passage must be obtained from the department prior to construction, permit  
 9 modification or abandonment of the artificial obstruction.

10 (5) Consistent with the purpose and goals of the Oregon Plan, the department shall seek coop-  
 11 erative partnerships to remedy fish passage problems and to ensure that problems are corrected as  
 12 soon as possible. The department and the person owning or operating the artificial obstruction are  
 13 encouraged to negotiate the terms and conditions of fish passage or alternatives to fish passage,  
 14 including appropriate cost sharing. The negotiations may include, but are not limited to, consider-  
 15 ation of equitable factors.

16 (6) The department shall submit a proposed determination of the required fish passage or alter-  
 17 natives to fish passage to the commission for approval. The determination may be the result of the  
 18 negotiations described in subsection (5) of this section or, if no agreement was reached in the ne-  
 19 gotiations, a determination proposed by the department. If a protest is not filed within the time pe-  
 20 riod specified in ORS 509.645, the proposed determination shall become a final order.

21 (7)(a) The commission shall waive the requirement for fish passage if the commission determines  
 22 that the alternatives to fish passage proposed by the person owning or operating the artificial ob-  
 23 struction provide a net benefit to native migratory fish.

24 (b) Net benefit to native migratory fish is determined under this subsection by comparing the  
 25 benefit to native migratory fish that would occur if the artificial obstruction had fish passage to the  
 26 benefit to native migratory fish that would occur using the proposed alternatives to fish passage.  
 27 Alternatives to fish passage must result in a benefit to fish greater than that provided by the arti-  
 28 ficial obstruction with fish passage. The net benefit to fish shall be determined based upon condi-  
 29 tions that exist at the time of comparison.

30 (c) The State Fish and Wildlife Director shall develop rules establishing general criteria for  
 31 determining the adequacy of fish passage and of alternatives to fish passage. The general criteria  
 32 shall include, but not be limited to:

- 33 (A) The geographic scope in which alternatives must be conducted;
- 34 (B) The type and quality of habitat;
- 35 (C) The species affected;
- 36 (D) The status of the native migratory fish stocks;
- 37 (E) Standards for monitoring, evaluating and adaptive management;
- 38 (F) The feasibility of fish passage and alternatives to fish passage;
- 39 (G) Quantified baseline conditions;
- 40 (H) Historic conditions;
- 41 (I) Existing native migratory fish management plans;
- 42 (J) Financial or other incentives and the application of incentives;
- 43 (K) Data collection and evaluation; and
- 44 (L) Consistency with the purpose and goals of the Oregon Plan.

45 (d) To the extent feasible, the department shall coordinate its requirements for adequate fish

1 passage or alternatives to fish passage with any federal requirements.

2 [(8)] (e) A person owning or operating an artificial obstruction may at any time petition the  
 3 commission to waive the requirement for fish passage in exchange for agreed-upon alternatives to  
 4 fish passage that provide a net benefit to native migratory fish as determined in **this** subsection [(7)  
 5 of this section].

6 **(8)(a) A person owning or operating an artificial obstruction may petition the commission  
 7 to waive the requirement for fish passage.**

8 **(b) The commission shall waive the requirement for fish passage if the commission de-  
 9 termines:**

10 **(A) That the artificial obstruction will be repaired or replaced and is less than eight feet  
 11 tall; or**

12 **(B) That:**

13 **(i) The artificial obstruction is a dam that provides hydropower, drinking water or water  
 14 for irrigation use;**

15 **(ii) The artificial obstruction creates fish habitat; and**

16 **(iii) Providing for fish passage would increase the cost of a project by more than 10 per-  
 17 cent.**

18 (9)[(a)] Artificial obstructions without fish passage are exempt from the requirement to provide  
 19 fish passage if the commission:

20 [(A)] **(a)** Finds that a lack of fish passage has been effectively mitigated;

21 [(B)] **(b)** Has granted a legal waiver for the artificial obstruction; or

22 [(C)] **(c)** Finds there is no appreciable benefit to providing fish passage.

23 [(b) *The commission shall review, at least once every seven years, the artificial obstructions ex-  
 24 empted under this subsection that do not have an exemption expiration date to determine whether the  
 25 exemption should be renewed. The commission may revoke or amend an exemption if it finds that cir-  
 26 cumstances have changed such that the relevant requirements for the exemption no longer apply. The  
 27 person owning or operating the artificial obstruction may protest the decision by the commission pur-  
 28 suant to ORS 509.645.*]

29 (10) If the fundamental change in permit status is an expiration of a license of a federally li-  
 30 censed hydroelectric project, the commission's determination shall be submitted to the Federal En-  
 31 ergy Regulatory Commission as required by ORS 543A.060 to 543A.410.

32 (11) To the extent that the requirements of this section are preempted by the Federal Power  
 33 Act or by the laws governing hydroelectric projects located in waters governed jointly by Oregon  
 34 and another state, federally licensed hydroelectric projects are exempt from the requirements of this  
 35 section.

36 (12) A person subject to a decision of the commission under this section shall have the right to  
 37 a contested case hearing according to the applicable provisions of ORS chapter 183.

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